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LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 5 February 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. Kozyrev, addressed to you concerning issues related to the use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Y. M. VORONTSOV

Annex

Letter dated 5 February 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

I have considered with great attention your letter of 28 January 1994 addressed to the President of the Security Council.

We regard that letter as a step aimed at fulfilling the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, which stipulate that decisions on all issues related to the use of air power in and around the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina designed to support UNPROFOR in the performance of its mandate are under the authority of the Security Council and subject to close coordination with the Secretary-General.

In the light of your letter, this problem was discussed at my meeting on 1 February 1994 with the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the Geneva Conference, Mr. T. Stoltenberg and Lord Owen.

Frankly, the very possibility of using force in order to open Tuzla airport gives us serious concern.

I should like to make it clear that we voted in favour of ensuring the safety of UNPROFOR, and do not rule out the provision of direct air support for the peace-keeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the event of an attack on it. However, it should be clearly taken into account that any strikes, even limited ones, within the framework of air support would have the gravest consequences. The situation on all the fronts in Bosnia and Herzegovina would become sharply aggravated, and that would in all probability result in the curtailment of humanitarian aid and imperil the whole United Nations operation.

Taking into consideration the far-reaching consequences of possible decisions to use air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we continue to think that the taking of such decisions should be the exclusive prerogative of the Secretary-General in consultation with the Security Council. We believe that we reached a clear understanding with you on this matter.

As far as the specific situation with regard to opening Tuzla airport is concerned, we are utterly convinced that only a political settlement can be effective. Possibilities for this do exist, and we intend to work actively on it in the coming days.

I hope that you will regard with due understanding our considerations, which are dictated by our aspiration for an earliest possible political settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A. KOZYREV

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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The members of the League of Arab States would like to express their grave concern at the tragic events that have taken place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They strongly condemn the shelling of Sarajevo by Serbian forces on 5 February 1994. This constitutes one more in the continuing series of actions directed against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The members of the League of Arab States request that the Security Council take the urgent measures stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations for the implementation of its resolutions adopted under Chapter VII, authorizing the use of force to bring about compliance by the Serbian side, which has refused to abide by the principles of international legitimacy.

The members of the League of Arab States affirm the necessity of implementing the Security Council resolutions on the protection of the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly resolution 836 (1993), paragraph 10 of which specifies that States Members of the United Nations may take all necessary measures, through the use of air power, to protect the safe areas, including Sarajevo.

The continued acts of genocide perpetrated against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina confirm that the only way to bring an end to this tragic situation is by bombarding the Serbian military positions that are threatening international peace and security by their acts of aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The members of the League of Arab States reaffirm the need to halt the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lift the siege of Sarajevo and support the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the exercise of its right to self-defence as stipulated in Article 51 of the Charter.

The members of the League of Arab States urge the Security Council to fulfil the responsibility conferred upon it under the Charter by taking immediate measures that will bring to an end this tragic humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which threatens the credibility of the international order in general.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Egypt